

I have been very glad to
hear that your daughter
(Susan?) is going to be mar-
ried; pray give her my
heartiest compliments,
as well as to her sister,
and believe me,

My dear Sir,
Truly yours
Alfred Russel

Alfred Russel Esq

Adenburgh 16 May
1860.

My dear Sir,

It is several weeks ago that you heard ^{nothing}
of me. Your last letter coincided with a most
troublesome attack of influenza which has made
me unfit for anything through several weeks. After
that the arrears of my professional business were
so great, that I was almost oppressed by them. Now
it is all well again.

During this time I got from my Berlin
brother (the author of the Roman History, you know)
the brochures of Ingley and Hamilton and your
Reply, ^{which} at the same time, I endeavoured to examine
with all possible care. I was extremely sorry to see
to what troubles and calumnious charges you have

been exposed by your having discovered one
of the most interesting sources of new Shakespear.
readings, and could not refrain from the iterated wish
of having with my own eyes seen and examined that ce-
lebrated Perkins-Folio. For though I am morally per-
suaded that the attacks are utterly false, yet, how can
I pronounce^(i.e. explicitly) about them without having seen the book?
You know how much I strove to get at it, three years
ago, even by calling in your own mediation, and how,
notwithstanding I was introduced to the Duke by the
Grand-Duchess of Weimar, I never got any reply to my
letter nor was admitted to the library. This is now a source
of double regret for me. However, I sent (last Sunday)
to one of our most-read literary papers (Literarischer
Centralblatt), in which the reviewer of my Romeo & Juliet
had seized the occasion of giving a sneer at my speak-
ing seriously of the Perkins-Folio, as being among the
sources of Shakespear. readings, the following letter, which
you are welcome to give any publicity you please:

Sir,
In Nr. 17. of your most honoured paper I meet
with a very positive assertion on account of the
Old MS. notes discovered by Mr. Collier, as follows:
"that the forgery of the Perkins-Shakespear
is a certain (settled) thing. (naingewiesen = proved)
shown clearly"
which occasions me to declare, that, after having
read the several pamphlets and articles of periodicals,

"showing clearly"

the attempt of "proving" the said forgery, and
for that is the true object ~~at~~ which the Hamil-
tonian compilation of hints and suspicions (Sammeli-
von Verdächtigungen) aims at — of destroying the charac-
ter of Mr. Collier, must hitherto be regarded as
a ^{complete} deliberate failure. (als vollständig misslungen an-
Zusehen ist) The arrow which is shot ~~at~~ is very likely
to return, in a most ugly way, upon the marks-
men. That there are at the head of this hostile
corps two Knights of the Guelphic Order will
do little add to their ^{fides} credit" (I took the word fides)
in Germany. At least not with me, for I am a
Ghibelline."

May I ask you to allow these words a quiet
^{corner} place in your columns?

I am, Sir, & c c

You will, I dare say, understand the allusion
of the Hanoverian Order. Hanover is just in the
present moment hated, nay despised, in Germany,
with regard to all its official doings; and I am
(as most (and let me add, best) people in Germany are,
i.e. well-bred people) of the national party, consequent-
ly thoroughly aware to trace who are the Standardbearers
of Particularism, amongst whom the actual Ministry
of Hanover is foremost. They even went so far as

to say in public session of the Chamber that they would rather enter into a league with foreign Powers than submit to the military and diplomatic guidance of Prussia. Therefore the party in office at Hanover and every body who is favoured or decorated by them, is now suspected and almost regarded as a traitor to the public weal.

I would willingly ^{have} entered into further particulars ^{in an article of greater length} about the question, but that is unfortunately prevented by my not having witnessed the chief object of those calumnies. Could I in any way be useful, I would do it with all my heart. I already wrote to my brother, and ^{to the Editor of the said Journal} a private letter (accompanying the above copy), that my notion was: you must demand an impartial verdict from a literary jury, or else simply indict Mr. Hamilton & Co. of calumny before the next best court of law. Either the one or the other would be our way of settling such an affair. Last night I got the "Mercur" of the Athenaeum (we get it here six weeks later, the whole month together) and saw, to my greatest satisfaction, that the same proposal of a tribunal has been made by Sir Frederick and agreed to by the Editor, six weeks ago. The idea struck me that perhaps I might serve you yet, at least if they want to have a foreigner who knows something of criticism and is not unacquainted with notes and dots &c in classical Mss. but who knows little or nothing of old English handwriting, I am, of course, willing to come, and could by the way also attain the collation of some English Mss. of Pindarus. - The latter part is thriving, though my illness has interrupted the work. If you want me to distribute some copies of your Reply, pray, send them, along with the enclosure, to Mrs. Williams of Norgate. I fear, you will think it too late, but if you have not yet dispatched them to others, I think it would be never too late.